

# Wargrave history

Heylyn Matheson opened a new boarding house at 52 Blackwater Road in 1888. He named the house Wargrave after his father-in-law's parish in Berkshire. Next door, number 50, was a private residence, later to become Crosby House in 1914.

In 1939, the College moved Crosby House to the former Ascham St Vincent's school in Carlisle Road. They had intended to move Wargrave there as well but with the threat of German invasion on the south coast in June 1940, the school moved to Radley College in Oxfordshire and both the College and former Ascham St Vincent's sites were taken over by the Royal Navy.

Wargrave and Crosby houses were disbanded in 1942 when the housemasters moved back to Eastbourne to open the 'Eastbourne Branch' (Headmaster John Nugee wanted to maintain a presence in the town).

In 1946, Wargrave reopened and took over the former Crosby House next door. A 'bridge' was built between the two properties during the following year and in the 1950s various extensions were built including a new dining room. Until 1965, when the new College dining hall was opened, boys ate in their own houses with meals often supplied by the housemaster's wife.

The last major refurbishment took place in 1991, when the 'bridge' was replaced by a three-storey addition.



## Wargrave 1917

The woman in the Red Cross uniform is believed to be Ethel Peacock, wife of the housemaster, George Peacock

25 former Wargravians were killed during the First World War





DINING ROOM, CROSBY HOUSE



S, CROSBY HOUSE 191



The Study. 1920.



PRE'S STUDY ~ 1920S.

Crosby 1919-20





"WARGRAVE" HOUSE ~ 1921 E.



"CROSBY" HOUSE

Wargrave and Crosby houses, 1921



### WARGRAVE HOUSE, 1888-1938

When Mr. Podmore, the first Head Master of Eastbourne College, retired, Mr. Green, the founder and first Housemaster of Blackwater, became Headmaster in his stead. Mr. Green elected to remain in Blackwater, and thus for a short space of two years Blackwater, instead of School House, became the seat of the Head Master. Meanwhile Mr. H. F. Matheson had been appointed Housemaster of School House in succession to Mr. Podmore.

In 1888, however, Mr. Green resigned, and Dr. Crowden, then Headmaster of Cranbrook School, came to the College as Headmaster, bringing with him a number of boys from his old school. Dr. Crowden decided to reside in School House with the result that Mr. Matheson bought No. 52 Blackwater Road, and so Wargrave was founded.

Now when he moved, Mr. Matheson took with him practically all the boys who remained in School House which, together with Blackwater, was repeopled with the boys whom Dr. Crowden had brought with him from Cranbrook, so that even if School House may claim to be senior in order of foundation, Wargrave can well claim continuity with the oldest body of pupils which the College possessed, a claim which will doubtless be strongly contested by every School House patriot.

Perhaps the most notable of the boys who came with Mr. Matheson from School House were the late Sir Arthur Oliver, Town Clerk of Newcastle, and Colonel R. de Bray Hassell, who afterwards distinguished himself in the Boer War.

Wargrave had been built as a private house some ten years before Mr. Matheson bought it; it had, however, never been occupied, and the rooms still stood unpapered as the builders had left them. Mr. Matheson built on the necessary dormitories and attachments, and since that time the House has undergone practically no structural alterations of importance, though as now arranged the rooms occupied by the boys differ in almost every case from those they originally occupied.

In those days it was not very easy to fill a house at the College, and so in 1905 we find Mr. Matheson handing on the torch to Mr. Atkinson. Mr. Atkinson remained, however, at Wargrave for only two years, taking over Blackwater in 1907, and being succeeded by Mr. Peacock, who remained Housemaster down to 1930. Upon his retirement the House was bought by the College, and Mr. Noël-Paton, who left last year, became the first Housemaster under the new regime.



**COLLEGE "HOUSE" JUBILEE.—Mr H. F. Matheson, founder and first housemaster of Wargrave House, Eastbourne College, cutting the jubilee cake on Saturday in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the House.**

## 50th anniversary 1938





*To Commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary  
of the Founding of Wargrave House  
the Housemaster (Mr. Vincent M. Allom)  
and the Boys*

## *At Home*

*Saturday, 17th December, 1938. 4—6.30 p.m.*

*Wargrave House,  
The College,  
Eastbourne*

*Buffet Refreshments, Sherry*

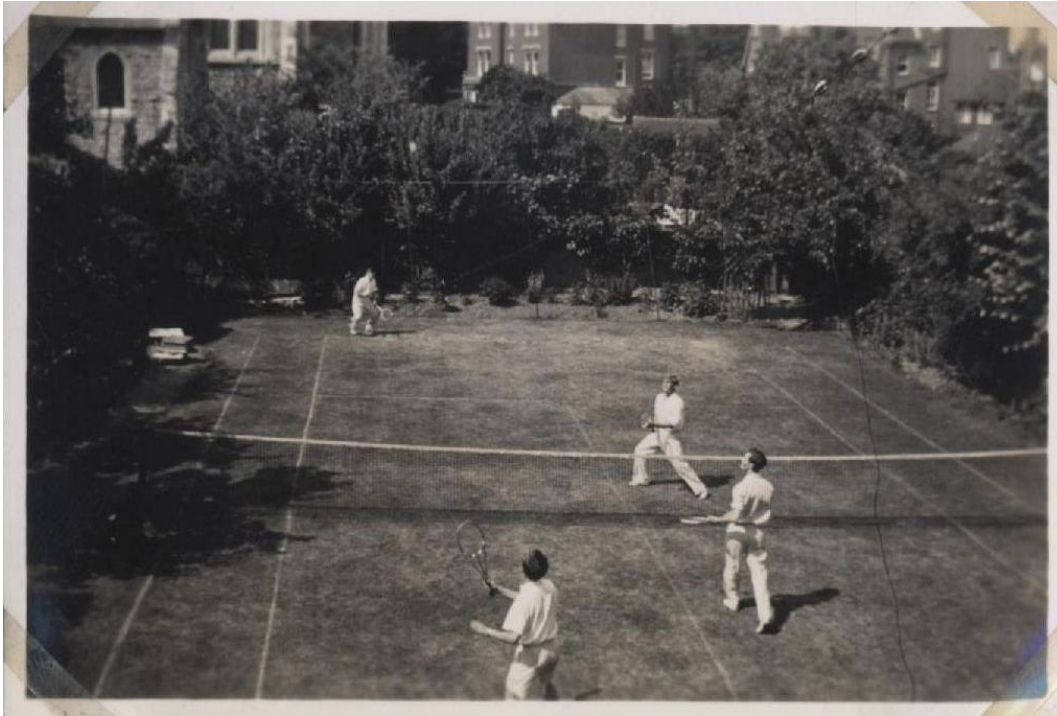
*R.S.V.P.*



**PAST AND PRESENT.**—In this picture taken at the celebrations in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of Wargrave House, Eastbourne College, are shown three "old boys" and a present student. Left to right: Mr J. D. Adamson (1894—1898), Mr A. Nugent 1892—1897), Master B. C. Maccoy, and Dr A. W. Brodribb (1889—1895).

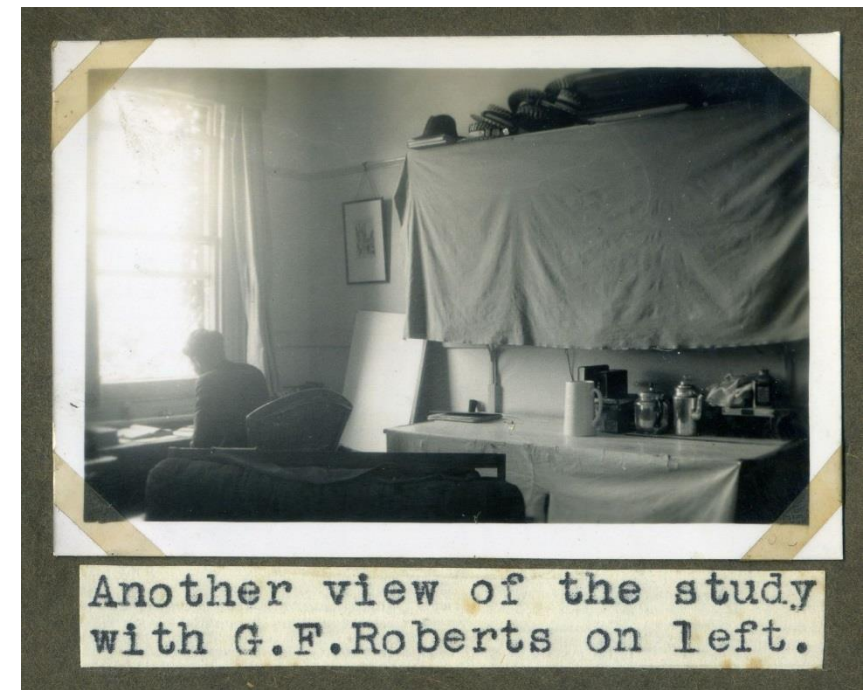
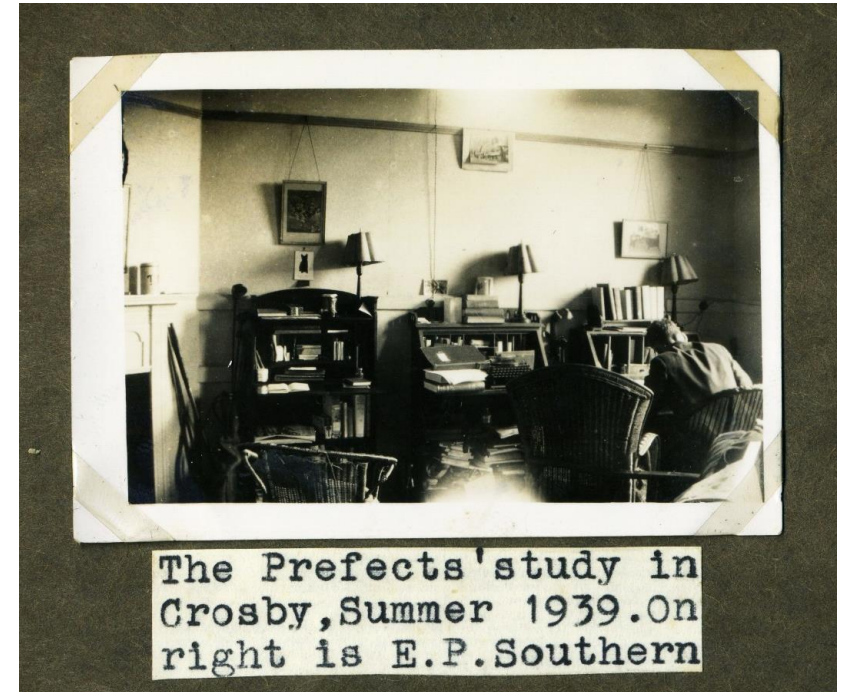
50th anniversary 1938





Tennis courts in the garden of  
'Old Crosby' 1939

Studies in 'Old Crosby' 1939





1939 with housemaster Vin Allom



The College v an R.A.F. XV on the  
Arnold Field, Easter Term 1940. The  
College (on left) have just scored  
Taken from a dormitory in the new  
Crosby, the old Ascham St Vincents



T.R.M. Sewell outside the new  
Crosby before going on Route  
March, during the Easter '40

New Crosby at former Ascham St Vincent's 1940